

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 20708 180907Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5786

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20708

NODIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS CD US FR

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: STATE 166492

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF SOUNDING OUT CHAD'S "FRIENDS" ABOUT WAYS THEY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO CHAD'S SECURITY. THEY PROBABLY WOULD WISH, HOWEVER, TO CARRY OUT ANY SUCH OPERATION BILATERALLY WITH EACH COUNTRY CONCERNED IN ORDER TO AVOID BOTH THE RISK OF LEAKS WHICH ORGANIZING A MEETING IN PARIS OF THE "FRIENDS OF CHAD" WOULD CREATE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FRANCE'S BEING PERCEIVED AS ACTING AT US BEHEST. (WE SUSPECT THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SOUNDED OUT THE MOROCCANS, EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE.) HOWEVER, GIVEN THE PRESENT PRE-ELECTORAL FERMENT IN FRANCE, THE ONLY SURE WAY TO KNOW WOULD BE TO SOUND THEM OUT.

2. HENCE WE THINK THAT THE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO RAISE THE MATTER AT HIGHEST PRACTICABLE LEVEL AT THE QUAI (GUIRINGAUD IS VISITING WEST AFRICA) AND OUTLINE OUR THINKING AS WELL AS WHAT
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THE US ITSELF IS PREPARED TO DO. WHILE SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OF "FRIENDS", THE AMBASSADOR WOULD ALSO SUGGEST AS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT THE FRENCH ACT DIRECTLY WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND REQUEST OUR DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT WHERE THAT MIGHT SEEM USEFUL. WE WOULD FOLLOW UP IMMEDIATELY WITH AN APPROACH TO THE ELYSEE.

3. AMBASSADOR HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH QUAI POLITICAL
DIRECTOR LABOULAYE AT 1530 PARIS TIME JULY 19 TO TAKE UP
SEVERAL PENDING ISSUES. PLEASE SEND INSTRUCTIONS IF
DEPARTMENT WANTS THIS MATTER RAISED.

4. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT THIS CABLE TO OTHER ADDRESSEES
OF REFTEL.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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